

Appl. No. 10/668,724
Response to Office Action mailed August 1, 2005

Atty Dkt. No. 114726-007

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-18. Claims 1-5, 8, 17 and 18 stand rejected, claims 9-16 were objected to, and claims 6 and 7 were withdrawn from consideration. In this Response, claims 1, 10, 16 and 17 have been amended, claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-8 and 10-18 are pending in the application, and claims 1-5, 8 and 10-18 are under consideration.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call Applicant's Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Allowable Claims

The Office Action at paragraph 4 objects to claims 9-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowable claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include allowable claim 9. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 10 and 16 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Thus, Applicants submit claims 1-5, 8 and 10-18 are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §§102, 103

The Office Action at paragraph 3 rejects claims 1-5, 8, 17 and 18 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Huddleston (US 5,297,366). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include allowable claim 9. The dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Thus, the claim rejections should be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/668,724
Response to Office Action mailed August 1, 2005

RECEIVED
AT FAX DKT. NO. H4726-007
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 31 2005

CONCLUSION

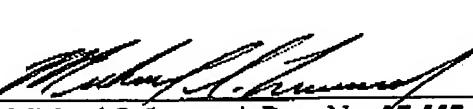
Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

EVEREST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP

Date: October 31, 2005

BY



Michael S. Leonard, Reg. No. 37,557
P.O. Box 708
Northbrook, IL 60065
Phone: (847) 272-3400